Eastern Routes were sanctioned in Rail Budget 2006-07 at an estmiated cost of Rs. 22,000 crores. Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey is being done for the project.

Laying on Wardha-Nanded-Yavatmal rail line

533. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 403 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government have since forwarded the project regarding laying of rail line in Wardha-Nanded-Yavatmal to the Planning Commission for approval as promised by him in the budget session; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Traffic and Engineering Survey reports have been drawn. Final report is expected by end of July, 2006.

Kaifiyat Express

534. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the public while travelling from Delhi to Azamgarh (U.P.) in Kaifiyat Express and back, have to face a lot of problems to get a seat or berth due to less number of bogies in that train;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to add at least one more IInd class bogie in that train for the convenience of the public; and

(c) if so, by when an extra bogie shall be added to the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is a fact that the overall average utilisation of train No. 2226 New Delhi-Azamgarh, Kaifiyat Express has been more than 100% during the period from January to June 2006.However, the occupancy in train No. 2225 Azamgarh-New Delhi Kaifiyat Express varied between 57% and 99% during the same period.

(b) and (c) The load of Kaifiyat Express is being augmented by one Sleeper coach from 31-07-2006.

Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express

535. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties in not advancing one hour the time of departure of Shatabdi Express leaving Chandigarh for Delhi now at 6.15 P.M.;

(b) whether Government are aware that passengers have to pay extra dinner charges due to existing time table; and

(c) whether Railway Board is considering adding more seats in executive Class on both Shatabdi trains between Delhi-Chandigarh due to high demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present 2012 Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express leave Kalka at 1730 hrs and leaves Chandigarh at 1820 hrs. This train provides a suitable service between Chandigarh and New Delhi, leaving Chandigarh after office hours. One hour early departure of this train ex-Chandigarh is not desirable at present as 4096 Himalayan Queen is already available at Chandigarh at 1728 hrs.

(b) Yes, Sir. As dinner is served on Shatabdi Express train, dinner charges form part of the consolidated ticket for Shatabdi Express and are recovered from the passengers travelling by Shatabdi express.

(c) The present accommodation in the both the Shatabdi train is satisfactorily catering to the existing travel demand.